

Serial No.: 09/867,058

Attorney Docket No.: 1998P07511US01

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**REMARKS**

Upon entry of the instant amendment, claims 1-20 and 27 and 28 are pending. Claims 1, 13, 14, and 27 have been amended to more particularly point out applicants' invention. Claims 13 and 14 have been amended into independent form. Claim 28 has been amended to overcome the section 112 rejection.

Claim 28 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out Applicants' invention. In particular, the dependency upon the canceled claim was objected to. Claim 28 has been amended to depend from claim 27. As such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

Claims 1-12, 17-20, and 27-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being unpatentable over Mohler, U.S. Patent No. 5,506,872 ("Mohler"). In order for there to be anticipation, each and every element of the claimed invention must be present in a single, prior reference. Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention is not taught, suggested, or implied by Mohler.

In particular, as discussed in Response to the previous Official Action, an aspect of the present invention is to provide notification to the user of status changes with regard to the user's mailbox. Such status changes can include, for example, whether the mailbox can accept new messages. The system serially sends a notification message or messages of such a status to preprogrammed coordinates, serially using different media formats (i.e., media blending), if necessary. For example, the notification may be provided by a flashing light, facsimile, pager message, or e-mail.

Thus, the claims have been amended to recite "wherein a notification message is sent to a subsequent one of the plurality of locations if a notification message has not been received at a previous one of the plurality of locations."

In contrast, Mohler merely provides that a user can specify a message and a single "out-calling number," which may be a fax, voice, electronic mail, paging, etc. However, Mohler does not provide for, or even hint at, a capability of serially sending a plurality of notification messages until the message is received, as generally

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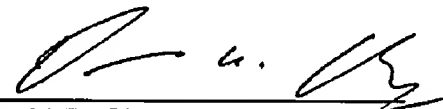
recited in the claims at issue. As such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections of the claims.

Claims 13-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Mohler. Claims 13 and 14 have been amended to recite "wherein a notification message is sent to a subsequent one of the plurality of locations if a notification message has not been received at a previous one of the plurality of locations." For reasons similar to those discussed above, applicants believe these claims, too, are allowable.

For all of the above reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance, which allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully requested,

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